

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENTI 03058 201129 Z

13

ACTION EA-01

INFO OCT-01 PA-01 INR-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 PRS-01 /005 W

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O 201040 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO USINFO WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3706

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS VIENTIANE 3058

E. O. 11652: NA

TAGS: MOPS, PINT, LA

SUBJECT: USINFO

USIA FOR IPS, IBS, CENTRAL NEWS DESK AND LAO SERVICE , IEA/ L,
IOP/ G, STATE FOR EA/ P, EA/ LC, S/ PRS MCCLOSKEY, BANGKOK FOR
VOA AND HEDGES, DELHI FOR GILMORE

1. LAOTIAN PREMIER PRINCE SOUVANNA PHOUMA TOLD A CORRESPONDENT
OF THE FRENCH PRESS AGENCY AFP THAT AMERICAN BOMBINGS
EARLIER THIS WEEK IN LAOS WERE " PURELY DEFENSIVE ACTS LIMITED
SOLELY TO PLACES WHERE OUR AGGRESSORS COMMITTED FLAGRANT
VIOLATIONS OF THE CEASE- FIRE."

2. AS QUOTED BY THE OFFICIAL LAO PRESSE, THE PRIME MINISTER
TOLD THE FRENCH CORRESPONDENT THAT THE ATTACKS BY AMERICAN
B-52 S WERE CONDUCTED AT THE REQUEST OF THE ROYAL LAO
GOVERNMENT FOLLOWING A NORTH VIETNAMESE OFFENSIVE IN
THAT VIENG AREA SOUTH OF THE PLAIN OF JARS.

3. PRINCE SOUVANNA ADDED THAT A GENERALIZED RESUMPTION
OF THE WAR IN LAOS" IS NOT BE FEARED, NOR EVEN
CONSIDERED IN THESE CONDITIONS. BESIDES," SAID SOUVANNA,
" THE RESUMPTION OF TOTAL WAR IS AN ACT OF GENERAL POLCIY
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PAGE 02 VIENTI 03058 201129 Z

WHICH WOULD NOT DEPEND ON LAOS ALONE, EVEN IF THIS WERE A
LIKELY HYPOTHESIS IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES".

4. THE LAOTIAN PRIME MINISTER STATED FURTHER THAT POLITICAL
TALKS WITH THE PATHET LAO CONTINUE AND THAT HIS GOVERNMENT
IS READY FOR THE FORMATION OF THE NEW COALITION GOVERNMENT
AND FOLLOW UP WITH GENERAL ELECTIONS TO GET " THE VERDICT
OF THE PEOPLE AND RETURN TO A NORMAL, CONSTITUTIONAL
POLITICAL LIFE".
PATE

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 APR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973VIENTI03058
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: VIENTIANE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730447/aaaaitls.tel
Line Count: 78
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: collinp0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 OCT 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22-Oct-2001 by cunninfx>; APPROVED <29-Jan-2002 by collinp0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> jms 980127
Subject: USINFO
TAGS: MOPS, PINT, LA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005